(d) if so, the action Government intend to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Justice of India to initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of judges.

(b) As on 1.8.2001, the vacancy position in respect of Judges in Supreme Court of India and in the High Courts was as follows:

(i)	High Courts	:	177
(ii)	Supreme Court	:	2

(c) and (d) Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously,vacancies do keep arising on account of retirement, resignation orelevation of Judges. Government has been requesting Chief Justices and the Chief Ministers of the States from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

Demarcation of Legislative Assembly Seats in Uttaranchal

†1612. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state by when and in which manner the demarcation of Legislative Assembly seats will be done in newly created State of Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): The delimitation of Assembly constituencies in the State of Uttaranchal is to be done by the Election Commission of India in the manner prescribed in section 22 of the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000. According to the Election Commission of India, the task of delimitation of constituencies in the State of Uttaranchal is likely to be completed before the end of this year

Monitoring of Fast Track Courts

1613. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts established in the Country, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of cases disposed of by these Courts; and

(c) whether the Law Department has any mechanism to review/ monitor/ assess about the number of disposal of cases by these Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, 459 Fast Track Courts have been set up in the country upto 30th June, 2001, as per enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) These Courts have started functioning recently. Hence, requisite information is not available. However, as per information available, 155 cases have been disposed of by Fast Track Courts in Chhattisgarh. And in Maharashtra, Fast Track Courts have disposed of 15 Civil Appeals, 133 Criminal Sessions Cases and 89 Criminal Appeals.

(c) These relate to substantive function of the judiciary. However, Department of Justice has been periodically writing to the State Governments/High Courts on various issues relating to Fast Track Courts, and has also been seeking information relating to number of cases disposed of by these courts.

Statement

State-wise position of Fast Track Courts set up as on 1st July, 2001

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts	Ear-marked	Set up
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3
3.	Assam	20	15
4.	Bihar	183	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	29
6.	Goa	5	—
7.	Gujarat	166	—
8.	Haryana	36	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	10
11.	Jharkhand	89	—
12.	Karnataka	93	13
13.	Kerala	37	—

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts	Ear-marked	Set up
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	85
15.	Maharashtra	187	93
16.	Manipur	3	—
17.	Meghalaya	3	3
18.	Mizoram	3	3
19.	Nagaland	3	3
20.	Orissa	72	12
21.	Punjab	29	—
22.	Rajasthan	83	40
23.	Sikkim	3	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	—
25.	Tripura	3	3
26.	Uttaranchal	45	45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	242	64
28.	West Bengal	152	13
	TOTAL:	1734	459

Amendment in Advocates Act

1614. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of India has opposed any attempt by Government to amend the Advocates Act to permit foreign law firms and legal consultants to practise in India;

(b) whether the Law Commission had suggested for allowing entry of foreign law firms to practise in India; and

(c) Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Bar Council of India is opposed to permitting foreign law firms and legal consultants to practice in India. Presently, the Government is also not seized of any proposal to amend the Advocates Act, 1961, for the said purpose.